

Behavioral Health Integrated Regulations Workgroup

Status Update – February 10, 2012

Workgroup's Actions to date:

- At the direction of the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health, convened a Workgroup consisting of DHMH and OAG staff and two provider organizations;
- Developed basic regulatory structure using accreditation standards and posted initial proposal on the BH Regulations website - www.dhmd.state.md.us/bhd/regulations. (September 26, 2011);
- Held conference calls with the Joint Commission (TJC), the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and the Council on Accreditation (COA) to gather information about coverage, costs, other states' experiences, implementation barriers, etc.;
- Reviewed and responded to emails sent by providers to regulations_integration@dhmd.state.md.us;
- Met with stakeholder groups and participated in provider conference calls upon request;
- Sent out regular Advisory Memos to field and posted the Memos on the BH Regulations website;
- Arranged teleconferences for providers with accrediting bodies and held the first, with CARF, on November 18, 2011 and the second, with TJC, on November 28, 2011; and the third, with COA, on February 7, 2012.
- Requested that the Joint Commission and CARF crosswalk their standards with current DHMH regulations;
- Appointed a sub-committee to research current statute and regulations to define who will be accredited under this proposal.
- Received crosswalk from TJC to analyze for differences with existing MHA and ADAA regulations.
- Planned teleconference with providers to provide update on Workgroup's activities and progress and to solicit feedback.
- Contacted credentialing bodies to obtain information on scope of practice for social workers and for professional counselors and therapists.
- Met with Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to provide overview of Workgroup's focus and progress.

Upcoming actions:

- Finalize determination on who is to be accredited, recognizing statutory changes needed;
- Telephone conference scheduled for February 24th from 11:00 am to noon with providers.
- Revise and publish timeline for workgroup activities;
- Complete review of state surveys on accreditation utilization;
- Review crosswalks received from CARF and TJC to analyze for differences with existing MHA and ADAA regulations to determine any regulations without corresponding standards;
- Prepare a draft outline of regulations required to implement proposal;
- Continue to review and respond to stakeholder emails; and
- Continue to post all correspondence on BH Regulations website.